

value.

4. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining the duration includes increasing the duration of the time window until a maximum value for the duration is reached.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein:

the consumer is arranged to receive a power supply voltage at the consumer during a period of time; and

the step of determining the switching instant includes analyzing a time variation of the current to determine the switching instant.

7. (Amended) A device for activating an electromagnetic consumer having a movable element, the electromagnetic consumer including a solenoid valve for controlling a metering of fuel into an internal combustion engine, the device comprising:

a control arrangement to determine a duration of a time window such that a current flowing through the consumer during the time window does not exceed a threshold value to determine a switching instant at which the movable element has reached a particular position within the time window.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 7 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

It is believed that this Amendment does not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search, and also does not raise the issue of new matter. It is also believed and respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal.

With respect to paragraph two (2) of the Final Office Action, the prior amendment concerning the incorporation by reference of certain subject matter was objected to as introducing new matter. To facilitate matters, and without conceding the propriety of the